



سفارة جمهورية مصر العربية في نيروبي
EMBASSY OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC
OF EGYPT IN NAIROBI

Note no: EE/UNEP/088/20

Nairobi, 24th January, 2020

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Nairobi presents its compliments to the Director, Governance Affairs Office of the United Nations Environment Programme, and with reference to the letter addressed from the Director, Governance Affairs Office of Reference: Executive Office/UN General Assembly Resolution 73/333/2019, dated 18/12/2019 attaching a questionnaire on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/333 entitled "Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277".

In this regard, the Permanent Mission has the honour to return herein the questionnaire duly completed.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Nairobi avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Director, Governance Affairs Office of the United Nations Environment Programme, the assurances of its highest consideration.

**The Director,
Governance Affairs Office
United Nations Environment Programme,
Nairobi.**

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Based upon the input received, the following guiding questions are set out below.

I. Guiding questions concerning the preparatory process

1. The outcome reads: “Forward these recommendations to UNEA for its consideration”.

- a. Under which agenda item should UNEA 5 consider these recommendations?
- b. One option being under the inclusion in the already established item 5 of the provisional agenda entitled “International environmental policy and governance issues” or by recommending the establishment of a new item?

ANSWER: Under the already established item 5 of the provisional agenda entitled “International environmental policy and governance issues”.

2. The outcome mandates: “to prepare, at its fifth session (...) a political declaration (...):

- a. What level of detail should a text have in order to be considered by UNEA 5?

ANSWER: The draft text for the political declaration should not be “considered” by UNEA 5 in the sense of taking a decision on it, but should rather be forwarded to the General Assembly, as is at the time, through a procedural decision, for further consideration by the second committee. The mandate given by the General Assembly to UNEA 5 (based on the recommendations of the Ad-hoc Open-Ended Working Group as annexed to 73/333) is for the Environment Assembly to “prepare” a political declaration, not to “consider” or “adopt”.

- b. When should the “preparation of a political declaration” begin and what should be the recommended format, leadership and timeline of the preparatory process before UNEA 5?

ANSWER: Process needs to begin several months before UNEA 5, preferably in conjunction with the beginning of the drafting process for UNEA 5 resolutions. Process needs to be inclusive, transparent and CPR-based. A proposed format could be the election of two facilitators by the CPR (one PR from a developed country, the other from a developing one) who would initiate consultations with Member States, following it up with a series of drafting meetings that open for participation by all Member States. Facilitators should report to the CPR regular meetings on the progress achieved in the process in a timely manner.

- c. How can accredited stakeholders be involved, and member States without representation in Nairobi participate, in the process?

ANSWER: Using the same working methods applied to UNEA resolutions. The draft text will be forwarded to the GA in NY for further consideration by the second committee, which guarantees a more inclusive process given the

strong representation from all Member States in the second committee.

II. Guiding questions related to the a “United Nations high-level meeting [...] in the context of the context of the commemoration of the creation of UNEP

3. The outcome speaks about “a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (...)”.

- a. *What is meant by “a United Nations high-level meeting, subject to voluntary funding, in the context of the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment”?*

ANSWER: This section of the questionnaire goes beyond the mandate given to UNEA by the General Assembly. The mandate is clear: tasking UNEA 5 to prepare a draft political declaration. The mandate does not task UNEA 5 with interpreting or taking a decision on the nature, timing, hosting or substantive content of the “United Nations high-level meeting”. Such parameters are for the General Assembly to decide upon.

- b. *Who is expected to convene the UN high-level meeting? What should its format be?*

ANSWER: The General Assembly is to convene the meeting. The format of the meeting, as well as all its other preparatory issues should be tackled by the General Assembly in a dedicated decision for that purpose.

III. Guiding questions regarding the content of the political declaration and the support by the UNEP Secretariat

4. The outcome also signals that the objective of the political declaration is “with a view to strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’”.

- a. *what ‘elements’ or ‘building blocks’ in the objectives guiding the recommendations and in the substantive recommendations contained in the Annex to Resolution 73/333 could be identified for inclusion in the political declaration to achieve the overall objective of “strengthening the implementation of international environmental law and international environmental governance, in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development”?*
- b. *How should the political declaration relate to the five objectives guiding the recommendations and to the thirteen substantive recommendations of the ad-hoc*

open-ended working group established pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 72/277 and endorsed in UN General Assembly resolution 73/333?

- c. Should there be a substantive connection between the political declaration and the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment?*
- d. How should the political declaration be in line with paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development?*
- e. What kind of inputs should the Secretariat prepare in order to best assist member States in the preparation of the political declaration?*

ANSWERS to a,b,c,d and e: The draft political declaration should be exclusively based on the objectives and recommendations of the Ad-hoc working group as annexed to 73/333. These objectives and recommendations were reached after extensive consideration on three 5-days meetings held in Nairobi, and the drafting process for the recommendations took into considerations the wide array of views and opinions expressed by all Member States during the process. Any consideration of matters outside the scope of these recommendations would not be conducive to attaining consensus on the draft declaration.